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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 003033

SIPDIS

NOFORN REL GBR

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [KDEM](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: UNAMI REPORTS INCREASED CIVIC OUTREACH EFFORT BUT  
REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT SUNNI TRIANGLE

Classified By: Political Counselor Robert S. Ford.  
Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

11. (C/NF/REL GBR) SUMMARY. The constitution drafting process is continuing with an eye towards meeting the drafting deadline in the TAL. In support of this effort, the UNAMI-coordinated civic outreach campaign continues to gain momentum despite personnel shortages in both UNAMI and the Civic Outreach Unit of the TNA's Constitution Committee. The multimedia portion of the campaign is expanding and includes radio programs, newspapers stories and announcements, and television Public Service Announcements (PSA) and talk shows covering the constitution. As civic outreach expands throughout Iraq, UNAMI expressed concern over the lack of coverage in the Sunni triangle, an area critical to the political process. UNAMI has asked the member states for support in identifying means to bring Sunni civil society into the constitution process, especially prior to the TNA's August 15 deadline for a draft constitution. END SUMMARY

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CONSTITUTION DRAFT EXERCISE CONTINUES FORWARD MOMENTUM  
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12. (C/NF/REL GBR) Head of UNAMI's Constitutional Support Unit Nicholas Haysom told PolOff and international donors at a July 20 briefing that the constitution text was nearly complete with about 20 to 30 percent remaining to be negotiated prior to the presentation of the first draft to the TNA on August

11. (Comment: For the past few weeks, the Constitution Committee has been reporting roughly the same completion rate, which can be misleading since it does not take into account the level of complexity for the remaining contentious issues. End Comment.) Haysom said that Committee Chairman Sheikh Humam Hamudi is adamant that a first draft will be completed by August 1 and submitted to the TNA. He also stated that Hamudi has given no indication he will request to extend the August 15 deadline for the TNA approved draft as authorized in TAL Article 61(F). Haysom opined that two of the most significant remaining issues include the latest Kurdish demands about an expanded Kurdish regional government in terms of its size and authorities and more general questions about federalism for all parts of Iraq.

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UNAMI CIVIC OUTREACH SUPPORT STILL BEHIND SCHEDULE  
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13. (C/NF/REL GBR) Haysom said that the media campaign continues to grow, with UNAMI contracts signed or in the process of being signed with 46 newspaper, 1 television stations, and 16 radio stations. Although newspaper stories on the constitution have increased in number, UNAMI also plans to make greater use of newspapers to distribute constitution-related educational materials. Haysom also stated that several PSAs have been recorded and aired, with talk shows gaining popularity. He briefed that radio programming, in addition to the UNIFEM-supported FM 96 program, will increase at the latter end of the week. UNAMI has also contracted for the printing of over 1,000,000 posters, 300 banners, 500 billboards, and 1,000,000 questionnaires. UNAMI plans to distribute this material via newspapers, the NGO community, and the constitution committee offices recently established in most of the governorates.

14. (C/NF/GBR) Other UNAMI staff briefed on the "blue box" campaign, a UNAMI-supported committee project to purchase 300 boxes for distribution throughout Iraq where the public can deposit their inputs and comments on the constitution. These boxes will be kept in banks and mosques for security reasons, and the inputs eventually delivered to the Constitution Committee's newly established, 16-person Analysis Unit. Haysom reported that, to date, the Committee has received over 1,000 email submissions and over 4,000 inputs

from Committee and NGO-led conferences and seminars throughout much of Iraq. The NDI-created database is now on-line, and Haysom hopes the Analysis Unit will quickly reduce the backlog of submissions and inputs.

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OUTREACH SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES  
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15. (C/NF/REL GBR) Haysom said that the Constitution Committee has sponsored its own series of outreach conferences, with 60 of the 300 conferences already taking place throughout Iraq. The Committee plans to complete all conferences by the first week of August. These conferences, Haysom explained, are in addition to the robust seminar and conference schedule already underway by both NDI and IRI. Haysom pointed out that Sheikh Hamudi recently lead a conference each for religious leaders and women, with each conference hosting over 1,000 participants.

16. (C/NF/REL GBR) Haysom hopes to culminate the series of conferences with a national conference in Baghdad. He explained that, due to security reasons, Sheikh Hamudi is considering canceling the 500-person national conference but may consider reducing its size and changing the location in order to address this security challenge. The results of all the seminars and conferences, Haysom said, are fed directly to the Committee's Outreach Analysis Unit.

17. (C/NF/GBR) Haysom explained that UNAMI's biggest concern remains the lack of coverage in the Sunni Triangle. He said the area was too dangerous for the typical outreach efforts, and looked for options to reach that population. (COMMENT: USAID's implementers are currently conducting outreach activities in this region; details to follow on extent of this activity. END COMMENT.) Other UNAMI members expressed concern over the ability for the Sunni Arabs to submit their comments to the Committee given limited internet access, mail delivery, and overall security concerns. Haysom said that UNAMI and the Committee do not have a plan drawn up to fully address outreach needs in the Sunni Triangle, and requested recommendations from the international community and implementers. (NOTE: Both the USG and UK meeting participants agreed to research options to address this problem. END NOTE.)

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COMMENT  
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18. (C/NF/REL GBR) UNAMI still confronts staffing constraints largely due to UN-imposed staff ceilings and the rigid Baghdad-Amman rotation scheme that appears beyond SRSG immediate control. The slow development of the Committee's Outreach Unit resulted in responsibilities reverting back to UNAMI that the committee unit could not manage. This resulted in UNAMI and, by default the implementers, filling the void. Similar problems exist with the Analysis Unit, a group that hired far few staff than originally intended.

19. (C/NF/GBR) While UNAMI continues to address these challenges, work in the field by the NGO community continues to reap positive results, with the Iraqi people thirsting for anything related to the constitution. At the UNAMI meeting, USAID passed around photos of an NDI seminar that took place in a small provincial town, where a 3-hour event stretched to 7-hours at the behest of the participants. The villagers, still hungry for more interaction, offered to pay for tea to host the seminar team's return visit in order to continue their discussions. Post has urged UNAMI and all USG-funded implementers to push their outreach campaigns even harder, and will work with Iraqi NGOs to ensure they have the resources to keep this program moving ahead. END COMMENT.

110. (U) REO HILLA, REO BASRA, REO MOSUL, and REO KIRKUK, minimize considered.

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